

of the Spergel Model. This could provide the benefit of using a more narrowly focused program, while having the Spergel Model to guide that program's involvement in a more comprehensive atmosphere. While each of the five project sites have their individual lessons to be learned, Klein and Maxson (2006) emphasize the view that "long-term successful gang control will not be achieved by intervention with youth, but by intervention with the nature of gang-spawning communities." Here again we see support for the idea that no matter how much you target the youth, the greater and more important target is the community in which these youth, and their gangs, reside.

### ***Concluding Remarks***

Past programs have failed for a number of reasons: poorly conceived or poorly implemented, lack of cooperation between agencies, insufficient resources and funding, or various political disputes that lessen support. No matter how effective any program is at individual rehabilitation, these efforts will be wasted if this transformed person is placed back within an environment of crime and gang activity. That is, even the most promising program graduate will falter when overwhelmed by old peers and the social factors that lead to delinquency in the first place. Since street gangs operate within communities, it is absolutely essential for the community to change if there is to be a change in local gang activity. Many times this requires a prolonged, concentrated effort to improve the neighborhood and provide opportunities outside of joining the gang.

While the community carries the greatest influence, the role of law enforcement must also be upheld. No matter how much emphasis is placed on the role of the community as a whole, these citizens should not make efforts to compromise with gangs or punish gang members themselves. Local police can do a far better job of removing the most violent offenders, some of whom may serve as an example for lesser